

GENERAL SECRETARIAT.

Working of the several Town and Minor Municipalities in the State during the year 1930-31.

READ—

The reports on the working of the several Town and Minor Municipalities in the State during the year 1930-31 and the reviews of the Deputy Commissioners thereon.

ORDER No. L. 3593-606—ML. 137-31-36, DATED BANGALORE, THE
22ND—24TH NOVEMBER 1932.

Recorded.

2. The reviews of the Deputy Commissioners were not submitted on the due dates, nor was complete information furnished to facilitate the issue of the Government review. The report of the Deputy Commissioner, Hassan District, was received only in September 1932, and the inordinate delay in its submission is explained to be due to the Presidents of several Municipal Councils not submitting their reports in a complete form on the due dates. This is very unsatisfactory. The Deputy Commissioners are requested to see that the reports due from the several Municipalities in their Districts are received in time and their consolidated review thereon with the necessary statistical statements are forwarded to Government before the due date.

3. At the end of the year there were 37 Town and 65 Minor Municipalities including the Municipality of Sringeri in Kadur District constituted into a Minor Municipality but excluding the Shivane Municipality in the same District which was converted into a Village Panchayet from 1st September 1930.

4. *Constitution*.—General elections were held in the Districts during the year for the reconstitution of 65 Municipal Councils and seven by-elections were held for filling up casual vacancies. The elections in all the Districts are reported to have been generally well-contested.

5. *Strength of Municipal Councils and Meetings*.—The total strength of members on all the Municipal Councils on the last day of the year, including Presidents who were additional members, was 1,540 of whom 736 were elected members, 480 were non-officials nominated by Government and the rest salaried servants of Government. The total number of meetings held by all the Municipal Councils during the year was 1,713 of which 914 were ordinary, 433 special and the rest adjourned meetings. Ordinary monthly meetings were regularly held only in one municipality in the Hassan District, in 20 municipalities in the Mysore District, in 2 municipalities in each of the Kolar, Kadur, Shimoga and Chitaldrug Districts, in 3 municipalities in the Tumkur District and in 7 municipalities in the Bangalore District. The failure to meet regularly every month to transact business in most of the municipalities is unsatisfactory and Government trust that the Municipal Councillors will evince greater interest in their work in future. The attendance of non-official councillors at the municipal meetings was fair in all the Districts generally. The attendance of officials was not quite satisfactory being less than 50 per cent in 29 municipalities. This is not satisfactory. The attention of the Official Members should be drawn to Government Order No. L. 2953-60—ML. 182-32-1, dated 25th October 1932, and cases of negligence in the matter of attendance on the part of Government Officers requiring notice should be reported for the orders of Government.

6. *Presidents, Vice-Presidents and other Office Bearers*.—During the year the Municipal Councils of Tumkur, Tiptur and Chikmagalur continued to have elected Non-official Presidents, while the privilege was withdrawn from the Hassan Town Municipal Council temporarily and the Treasury Assistant Commissioner was appointed as *Ex-officio* President of the Municipal Council. Non-official Presidents were appointed by the Government for the Dodballapur, Anekal, Malur and Sagar Municipal Councils. Practically all the Municipal Councils enjoyed the privilege of an elected Vice-President.

7. *Committees.*—It is reported that in the Bangalore District some of the municipal councils did not constitute Managing Committees, that the Audit Committees formed in a few municipalities did not do any work and that the Health Committees in the majority of municipalities did useful work. In the Shimoga District, the work of the committees is reported to be not satisfactory. In the Tumkur District even the Health Committees in some of the municipalities did not function and it is reported that in the Kunigal Municipality the local Sub-Assistant Surgeon did not attend the meetings of the Health Committee even once. The Senior Surgeon is requested to enquire into the matter and issue suitable instructions to the Officials concerned. In the Kolar District, only 4 municipalities constituted Managing Committees while the Health Committee at Kolar did not meet at all. The Committees formed in other Districts are reported to have done fairly good work except in Saklespur in the Hassan District. The Deputy Commissioners are requested to impress on the Municipal Councils the utility of the constitution of several committees.

8. *By-laws and Rules.*—There was a fairly large activity in the framing of by-laws by the municipal councils regarding sanitation, conservancy, vaccination, births and deaths, octroi, epidemics, hotels, eating-houses, construction of buildings and temporary structures. Rules were also framed for the levy of tolls and market fees and lighting and water taxes in some of the municipalities.

9. *Finance and Incidence of Taxation.*—The year opened with a balance of Rs. 5,02,112. The income and expenditure amounted to Rs. 14,54,167 and Rs. 15,28,464 respectively and the closing balance amounted to Rs. 4,27,815. Except in the Tumkur District, the expenditure exceeded the income in all the Districts, the excess varying from Rs. 30,000 in Chitaldrug District to Rs. 3,000 in Kolar District. The incidence of taxation per head of population ranged from Rs. 4-11-5 in Koppa Municipality to Re. 0-2-8 in Harnahalli.

10. *Demand, Collection and Balance of Municipalities.*—Out of the total demand of Rs. 16,04,880 for the year including arrears, a sum of Rs. 11,64,986 was collected. Excluding the amounts remitted or written off as irrecoverable, the balance to be collected at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 4,24,805. The percentage of collection to the demand including arrears was highest in Tumkur District, viz., 82 per cent while it was the lowest in the Bangalore District, viz., 51·5 per cent. The statistics furnished disclose that there has been a general increase in the amount left uncollected except in the Municipalities of Chikmagalur, Hassan, Molakalmuru, Dodballapur, Malvalli, Channapatna, Vadigenahalli, Madhugiri, Chintamani, Goribidnur, Nanjangud, Seringapatam, Heggaddevankote, Hunsur, Gundlupet, Mugur, Ramasamudra, Shiralkoppa and Hosanagar. It is reported that demand notices were not issued regularly in the Anekal Municipality and that the notices were not followed up by warrants in the Yelahanka and Hoskote Municipalities. In the Channapatna Municipality though there was some improvement in the collection work, the arrears were still heavy. The collection work in the Hosdurga, Tiptur, Tumkur and Turuvekere was fair, while that in Kunigal was very poor. The arrears outstanding continued to be heavy in the Municipalities of Nanjangud, Seringapatam, Hunsur and Mugur. The accumulation of arrears is mainly due to failure to collect the amounts due by adopting in time coercive measures prescribed in the Municipal Regulation and the Presidents concerned should take prompt action for the recovery of all outstanding arrears.

11. *Town Improvement Works.*—A sum of Rs. 75,000 was granted by Government for town improvement works during the year. Improvement of drainage and roads, formation of circles and parks, removal of congestion and other sanitary works were undertaken by several municipal councils. The construction of the Town Hall at Mandya was nearing completion, while the Silver Jubilee Building at Bannur was completed during the year. A loan of Rs. 2,000 was given by Government to the Sidlaghatta Municipality for meeting the cost of improvement works during the year. The construction of some stalls in the Sante at Arsikere and of the daily market stalls in Hole-Narsipur was completed during the year.

12. *Drainage.*—The first stage of the drainage scheme for Davangere was completed at a cost of Rs. 28,280 and the second stage costing Rs. 29,947 was started. The drainage projects for Molakalmuru and Hiriyur Town were in progress. In Arsikere, drainage works were carried out at a cost of Rs. 8,000 during the year.

13. *Water-Supply*.—The water-supply project of Hunsur was completed during the year, while that of Kolar was under progress. Two estimates amounting to Rs. 11,118 and 9,620 were sanctioned in connection with the water-supply of Chikmagalur for replacing the 4" delivery main by 5" pipes and the works were commenced during the year. The Municipal Councils of Tiptur, Doddballapur, Arkalgud and Arsikere undertook the improvement of their water-supply by means of boreholes. The extension of the water works at Tumkur to supply water to Kuripalya and the northern extension at a cost of Rs. 24,200 was undertaken by the Municipal Council during the year.

14. *Public Health and Sanitation*.—Public health was generally good during the year in all the Districts except for the occasional outbreaks of plague, cholera, small-pox, etc., in certain places. Prompt steps are reported to have been taken for their suppression and prevention by the usual methods of inoculation, evacuation, etc.

15. *Public Safety and Convenience*.—Electric power was for the first time supplied during the year for general lighting purposes to the Towns of Anekal, Mandya, French-Rocks and Melkote.

16. *Audit and Inspection of Municipal Offices*.—The accounts of the several municipalities were audited by the Local Audit Staff of the Comptroller's Office. There was no improvement in regard to the disposal of audit notes and objection statements. The constitution and working of Audit Committees in Bangalore and Hassan continued to be unsatisfactory in spite of the observations of Government in the reviews of previous years.

17. *Inspections*.—The reviews of the Tumkur and Hassan Districts do not specify the number of municipal offices inspected by the Deputy Commissioners. In the Mysore District only 7 municipalities were inspected. In the other Districts with the exception of only a few all the municipalities were inspected during the year and instructions issued to rectify the defects noticed.

The Third Member of Council inspected the Offices of the Hassan and Chikmagalur Town Municipal Councils during the year.

18. *General*.—The three bills for City, Town and Minor Municipalities prepared by the new Committees referred to in the Government review of last year were since placed before the Representative Assembly and are now under consideration by the Legislative Council.

H. V. RAMASVAMI,
Secretary to Government,
General Department.

FINANCIAL SECRETARIAT.

Passes orders on the Report of the Public Accounts Committee.

READ—

Audit and Appropriation Report of the Comptroller on the accounts for the year 1930-31.

2. Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Audit and Appropriation Accounts of the year ending 30th June 1931.

ORDER No. FL. 2866-2945—G. F. 128-31-27, DATED BANGALORE, THE
18—26TH NOVEMBER 1932.

There was a delay of about three months in the submission of the Audit and Appropriation Report for 1930-31 by the Comptroller. He is requested to see that future reports are submitted to Government within the prescribed time. Government note with satisfaction that in spite of the delay, the Public Accounts Committee dealt with the above report and submitted its report in time for being placed before the Legislative Council at the June Session 1932.